

REMARKS

Claims 1–19 are pending. Claims 1–13 and 15–19 were rejected. Claim 14 was objected to as allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1–13, and 15–17, which includes all pending independent claims, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 6,201,859 to Smith in view of U.S. Patent 5,822,527 to Post (“Post”). However, independent claims 1, 7, and 9, each include at least one limitation neither taught or suggested by the combination of Smith and Post. This rejection is therefore inappropriate.

Examiner has conceded that Smith does not disclose using a label indicating a role of a media output to identify that media output. Examiner proposes Post to provide this limitation. However, Post contains no teaching or suggestion of labeled media outputs. Post appears to teach checking the values of specific fields of data within a stream and performing some action on the stream based on the value of these fields. Thus, the action performed by Post depends on the value of a particular portion of the data stream. Conversely, each of claims 1–19 refers to determining and acting on policies based on a label associated with—but separate from—the output. The actual data content of the output is not inspected or acted upon, but rather the label.

Moreover, Post’s data does not appear to be multimedia conferencing signals, as required by each of claims 1–19. Post appears to be acting on non-interactive data, such as e-mail messages, static data files, and the like. Post does not appear to contain any teaching or suggestion that his filter would be useful in the context of multimedia conferencing, and the undersigned does not understand how one skilled in the art would apply Post to multimedia conferencing.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that each of the pending claims 1–19 is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and a notice of allowance for these claims is therefore requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner that would be helpful for moving the case toward issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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